

Together With



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## OSHA's First 35 Years



OSHA's mission is to send every worker home whole and healthy every day. Since OSHA was established in 1971, workplace fatalities have been cut by 62 percent, and occupational injury and illness rates have declined 40 percent. At the same time, U.S. employment has nearly doubled from 56 million workers at 3.5 million worksites to 115 million workers at nearly 7 million sites.

On December 29, 1970, President Richard M. Nixon signed the Occupational Safety and Health Act creating OSHA in the Department of Labor and by May 29, 1971, the first

► Continued on Page 2

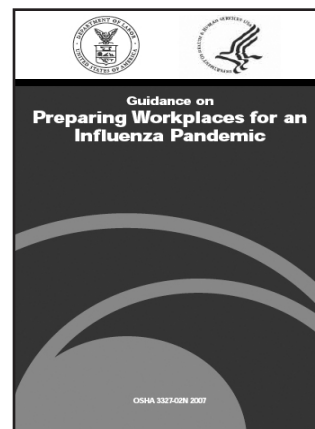
## New Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for Influenza Pandemic

On February 6, 2007, OSHA unveiled new workplace safety and health guidance that will help employers prepare for an influenza pandemic.

Developed in coordination with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), "Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for an Influenza Pandemic" provides general guidance for all types of workplaces. It describes the differences

between seasonal, avian and pandemic influenza and presents information on the nature of a potential pandemic, how the virus is likely to spread and how exposure is likely to occur.

Employers and employees should use this guidance to help identify risk levels and implement appropriate control measures to prevent illness in the workplace. To help employers determine appropriate workplace practices and precautions, the guidance



► Continued on Page 3

## OSHA Issues Final Rule on Electrical Installation Standard

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has revised the general industry electrical installation standard found in Subpart S of the OSHA general industry standards (Part 1910).

These are the first changes to the electrical installation requirements in 25 years, and OSHA feels that the standard reflects the most current practices and technologies in the industry. The revised standard strengthens employee protections and adds consistency between OSHA's requirements and many state and local building codes that have adopted updated National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) and National Electrical Code provisions.

Changes in the new standard focus on safety in the design and installation of electrical equipment in the workplace. The updated standard includes a new alternative method for classifying and installing equipment

► Continued on Page 2



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## OSHA Issues Final Rule on Electrical Installation Standard (continued)

in Class I hazardous locations, new requirements for ground-fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) and new provisions on wiring for carnivals and similar installations.

The final rule updates the general industry electrical installation requirements to the 2000 edition of the NFPA 70E, which was used as the foundation of the revised standard. The final rule also replaces the reference to the 1971 National Electrical Code in the mandatory appendix to the powered platform standard with a reference to OSHA's electrical installation standard. It will be effective in Tennessee in August of 2007.



## OSHA's First 35 Years (continued)

standards were adopted to provide a baseline for safety and health protection in American workplaces. In November and December of 1972, the first states were approved (South Carolina, Montana, Oregon) to run their own OSHA programs, and on May 20, 1975, a free consultation program was created. More than 500,000 businesses have participated in the consultation program in the past 30 years.

Through the late 1970s and 1980s, many important standards were published to protect workers. Some of those include the lead standard in 1978 to reduce permissible exposures by three-quarters and protect 835,000 workers from damage to nervous, urinary and reproductive systems (Construction standard adopted in 1993). In 1983, the hazard communication standard was promulgated to provide information and training and labeling of toxic materials for manufacturing employers and employees (Other industries added August 24, 1987). And in 1989, the lockout/tagout of hazardous energy sources standard was issued to protect 39 million workers from unexpected energization or start-up of machines or equipment and prevent 120 deaths and 50,000 injuries each year.

One of the most significant events of the 1990s was the issuance of the occupational exposure to bloodborne pathogens standard to prevent more than 9,000 infections and 200 deaths per year, protecting 5.6 million workers against AIDS, hepatitis B and other diseases. Most recently, on February 27, 2006, OSHA published the final rule on hexavalent chromium, lowering the permissible exposure limit (PEL) from 52 to 5 micrograms per cubic meter based on an 8-hour workday.

For a complete chronological listing of OSHA's 35-year milestones, visit [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

## Continuation of Examination of TOSHA Standards with a Training Requirement

3

We began this series in the fall 2006 newsletter with a look at the training requirements in 1910.38, Emergency Action Plans. In this edition, let's look at the training requirements for employees exposed to occupational noise. The TOSHA noise standard at 29 CFR 1910.95 requires in paragraph k, that employees who are exposed to noise levels above 85 decibels averaged over eight hours must be placed in a hearing conservation program. One of the required elements of a hearing conservation program is effective training on noise and its effects on hearing, the effectiveness and proper use of hearing protectors, and information about the audiometric testing program.

Since hearing loss will probably not occur immediately but will be a cumulative effect, the focus should be on the real-life losses employees might expect if they don't act to protect their hearing. They might not be able to hear children's voices. They might not understand speech at a party, enjoy music and the sounds of nature, or perceive sounds that may convey other critical information--such as danger or equipment malfunctions. Another useful approach might be to explain audiometric results so employees can see how their hearing threshold levels compare to those of non-noise exposed individuals with normal hearing in their own age group. Once employees agree upon why they need to conserve their hearing and how to monitor their audiogram results, the remainder of the program can focus on how to protect their hearing on and off the job through the effective use of hearing protection devices and good maintenance of engineering noise controls.

### 30th Annual Tennessee Safety and Health Congress



Join TOSHA and other safety and health professionals for the 30th anniversary of the Tennessee Safety and Health Congress, July 22-25, 2007, at the Opryland Hotel. There will be more than 60 workshops, free food, free prizes, the safety and health Jeopardy Challenge, and a birthday bash with birthday cake for all. To register, visit [www.tnsafetycongress.org](http://www.tnsafetycongress.org) or call 615-741-7156.

### New Guidance on Preparing Workplaces for Influenza Pandemic (continued)

divides workplaces and work operations into four risk zones, according to the likelihood of employees' occupational exposure to pandemic influenza. Recommendations for employee protection are presented for each of the four levels of anticipated risk and include engineering controls, work practices and use of personal protective equipment such as respirators and surgical masks and their relative value in protecting employees. The publication is available at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov).

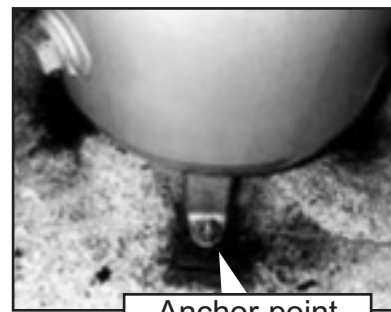
## TOSHA TIPS

**Condition:** Machines designed to be used at a fixed location were not securely anchored.

**Potential Effects:** Crushed hands and arms, severed fingers and limbs, lacerations and abrasions and other injuries from "walking" or moving of the equipment.

**Standard:** 29 CFR 1910.212(b)

**Recommended Action:** Bolt the machinery, such as saws, presses, drills, compressors, etc, to the floor or otherwise secure it in place. Installing the machine on a large base may eliminate movement and increase stability. If the machine is otherwise stable and secure against tipping or falling, rubber pads may be placed under it to prevent undesired movement.



Anchor point

# L

# EARN & LIVE

## A TOSHA Case File Summary

**CAUTION**

**HAZARDOUS  
CHEMICALS**

**AUTHORIZED  
PERSONNEL ONLY**

A worker at a chemical manufacturing facility was working to bring on-line a rarely utilized piece of equipment used in a chemical distillation process. The piece had not been used since it was repaired several months earlier. The worker radioed a co-worker that a leak had occurred and he needed help. The worker was able to exit the building unaided. He was transported by ambulance to a hospital where he lost consciousness and died several days later. When workers entered the area wearing SCBAs and chemical resistant suits, they found four to five finger-sized streams of chemicals leaking from the process. It was discovered later that the part had not been properly assembled and made safe for the process following a repair that was made several months earlier.

### **To prevent such an accident from occurring and to protect emergency responders:**

1. Develop and implement written operating procedures and safe work practices that provide clear instructions for safely conducting activities involved with the use of highly hazardous chemicals in a process: include such items as start-up after a turnaround, safety and health considerations such as properties of, and hazards presented by, the chemicals; safe work practices for employees and contractor employees, and all other items as required by 29 CFR 1910.119.
2. Establish and utilize energy control procedures (lockout/tagout) for the control of potentially hazardous energy as required by 29 CFR 1910.147.
3. Establish and implement an emergency response plan to handle uncontrolled releases of hazardous chemicals consistent with 29 CFR 1910.120.
4. Establish and implement a written respiratory protection plan for use during uncontrolled releases of hazardous chemicals as required by 29 CFR 1910.134.

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